

Joe Gunn has been a dedicated labor leader for the workers of Texas, and his example and influence have had ripple effects across the country. He is a hard working and fair man, with an effervescent slogan, "Dignity for Workers—A right, not a privilege! I could not agree with him more.

Joe operates with the character of someone who learned hard work, honesty, integrity, justice and compassion at an early age. He was the youngest of eight children born to Clarence and Mary Gunn in the small town of Leona, Texas. The he moved to Houston, the city we both call home. At the age of 16, he began working for Southwestern Bell to help support his family.

In 1961, Joe's labor movement career began when he was elected Steward for a one-year term, Chief Steward for six months, 2nd Vice President for six months, and then to the position of President of CWA Local 6222 in June 1962. His quick rise up the leadership ladder exemplifies his talent and ability. It also demonstrates his joy for serving the people. Joe served the CWA for over a decade, during which the CWA became a large extended family. That union family worked to advance workers' rights and to strengthen the community.

Although Joe is a Texan, he has used his gifts for the benefit of Texans and non-Texans alike. In fact, while with the CWA, he served on the bargaining committee for three contracts representing a five-state area. Moreover, the CWA local 6222 tripled in size during Joe's tenures. He conducted several strikes in CWA and was known for successfully using many different tactics to establish the public's awareness of the unfair treatment of the CWA telephone workers. Joe was hailed as one of the leaders of the "Texas Labor Management Conference," as unions worked to strengthen their companies while demanding fairness for the workers.

Joe was an unopposed candidate from the time he assumed the presidency in 1962 until he left CWA Local 6222 in 1973. At that time, he was with the Texas Employment Commission, the predecessor to the Texas Workforce Commission, as a representative of workers. That was the first time a union representative had ever held office in TEC. He remained well regarded during his time with the TEC. The hierarchy of TEC even termed one of Joe's craftier policies, "The Gunn Rule," which is still in effect today.

In 1979, Joe was elected by the Texas AFL-CIO Executive Board to the position of Secretary-Treasurer, where he served for a decade. Joe then became President of the Texas AFL-CIO in 1989 without opposition. He was unopposed in each succeeding election, which he credits to members working together as a team.

Joe's tenure as President of the Texas AFL-CIO came at a difficult time for organized labor in the Untied States. National membership in labor

unions, as a percentage of the workforce, fell dramatically, a carryover that first accelerated during the Reagan presidency. Unfortunately, employers poured unprecedented sums into political, legislative and public relations efforts to defeat union organizations.

It is a tribute to Joe Gunn's leadership that the state Federation in Texas has maintained a solid membership base during his tenure. While union membership has fluctuated with the economy, Joe emphasized recruiting and keeping unions within the State federation.

During Joe's tenure, the Texas AFL-CIO helped lead the way in many achievements: raising the state minimum wage to the Federal level in 2001, winning consultation rights, helping defeat private school vouchers with the Texas Federation of Teachers, and improving pensions for the Fire Fighters and other public employees. That is quite a list of accomplishments and there are many others attributable to Joe's leadership. I simply do not have the time to list them all.

In 1995, Joe stood tall in denouncing then governor Bush for breaking promises his office had made to labor unions in exchanges for labor's support on key legislation involving the State's workforce. Joe Gunn was the first Democrat in Texas to point out, on a regular basis, the negative consequences that Bush's policies held for working people. Now, the Nation is witness to the negative consequences of the President's policies. Therefore, Joe continues the fight.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, when asked to characterize his most notable accomplishments, Joe's answer is always the same: "Maintaining dignity for workers, public respect for good craftsmanship, and dedication to fair employers." Joe has always advocated a good day's work for a good day's pay. He has only asked for fair treatment of working families. And he continues to insist that workers be treated with dignity. Because of his commitment, his consistency, his faith, his heart, his leadership, and his strength, I pay tribute to Joe D. Gunn. On behalf of the 18th District of Texas, on behalf of the entire State, I thank him and honor him.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PASTOR (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 6:15 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of a grave illness in the family.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today from 11:00 a.m. on account of participating in activities relating to the official State holiday of Utah.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BISHOP of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. CASE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. BALDWIN, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 74. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California.

H.R. 255. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant an easement to facilitate access to the Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

H.R. 1577. An act to designate the visitor center in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona as the "Kris Eggle Visitor Center", and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1280. An act to amend the PROTECT Act to clarify certain volunteer liability.

S. 1399. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South Vine Street in Glenwood, Iowa, as the "William J. Scherle Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Thursday, July 24, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3378. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Establishment of Safeguards and Procedures for Suspension of Packing Holidays [Docket No. FV03-925-2 FIR] received July 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.